



Using plurals

For 12 picture pairs that cover all the different plural spelling rules, see the worksheet 'Practice using plural spelling rules'.

Plural word forms are used to show that there is more than one of something: eg **kitchens** is the plural form of the word **kitchen**.

Rules to help spell plurals

Add an 's'

This is the most common way to make a plural (eg **bike**- **bikes**).

Words ending in 'y'

If there is a **consonant** before the 'y', change the 'y' to 'i' before adding 'es' (eg **lady** - **ladies**).

If there is a **vowel** before the 'y', just add 's' (eg **toy** - **toys**).

(**Vowels**: the five vowels in the alphabet are **a e i o u**.)

Consonants: all the other letters in the alphabet that are not vowels are called consonants)

Words ending in 'x', 'sh', 'ch', 's' or 'ss'

For words ending in 'x', 'sh', 'ch', 's' or 'ss' add 'es' (eg **church** = **churches**).

Words ending in 'f' or 'fe'

For most of these words, change the 'f' or 'fe' to 'v' before adding 'es' (eg **leaf** - **leaves**).

Watch out for the words that don't fit this rule: eg **chief** - **chiefs**. To help work out the exceptions to the rule, listen for the change in the sound when you say the word.

Some exceptions: **roof** = **roofs**, **chief** = **chiefs**, **belief** = **beliefs**, **chef** = **chefs**, **cafe** = **cafes**, **handkerchief** = **handkerchiefs**, **safe** = **safes**.

Irregular plurals

Irregular plurals are plural word forms that don't follow any of the plural rules! For example:

Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural
man	men		mouse	mice
woman	women		deer	deer
child	children		sheep	sheep
foot	feet		ox	oxen
tooth	teeth		fish	fish or fishes